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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Office of the Executive Director
Interagency Advisory Group
1900 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20415

October 9, 1963

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES TRAINING ACT

FROM: Calvin P. Deal *CPA*
Executive Vice-Chairman

TO: Mr. Emmett D. Echols
Director of Personnel
Central Intelligence Agency

The Civil Service Commission has received a suggestion that legislation which would broaden section 19(a) of the Government Employees Training Act be sought. As presently written, section 19(a) authorizes the acceptance by Government employees of contributions and awards incident to training in non-Government facilities, provided such contribution or award is made by a charitable, benevolent, or similar tax-exempt organization as defined in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The proposed legislation would expand this provision to include all tax-exempt organizations listed under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The official who submitted this suggestion gave the following as his reasons for seeking the change:

This provision has a tendency to close out a rich source of management development. The criterion is considered to be too restrictive, since many reputable and highly desirable donors are not the "charitable" types of organizations described in section 501(c)(3), and many organizations eligible to request exemption under this section have no desire nor will they concede to being listed as organizations described under section 501(c)(3). In addition, this requirement of the law is difficult and time-consuming to administer.

There are a number of organizations which offer contributions and awards not now acceptable under this provision. Among these organizations which offer scholarships and fellowships are the Department of Education in Trenton, New Jersey, the Newport National Bank of Rhode Island, the Philadelphia Board of Education (The Mayor's Scholarship of the City of Philadelphia), the Philadelphia Bulletin (newspaper), the International Association of Machinists, and the Rotary International Foundation.

Existing policies and procedures governing the acceptance of fellowships, scholarships and grants for members of the armed forces, as contained in Part 139.3 of Title 32, provide considerably greater latitude than does P. L. 85-507, and there does not appear any valid reason why the criteria for donors of fellowships, scholarships and grants to military and civilian personnel should be different.

The Commission's staff would appreciate receiving your answers to the following questions:

1. To what extent has the present provision proved a handicap?
2. Would you be in favor of liberalizing the present law as proposed?

Please send your replies, by October 25, 1963, to--

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